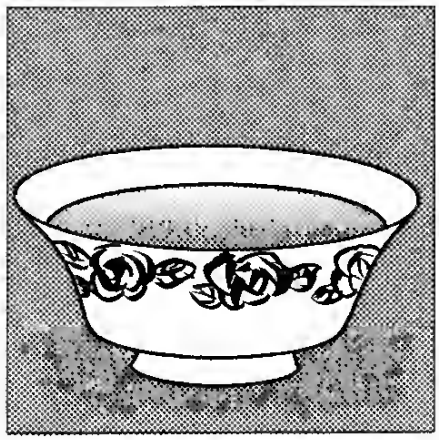
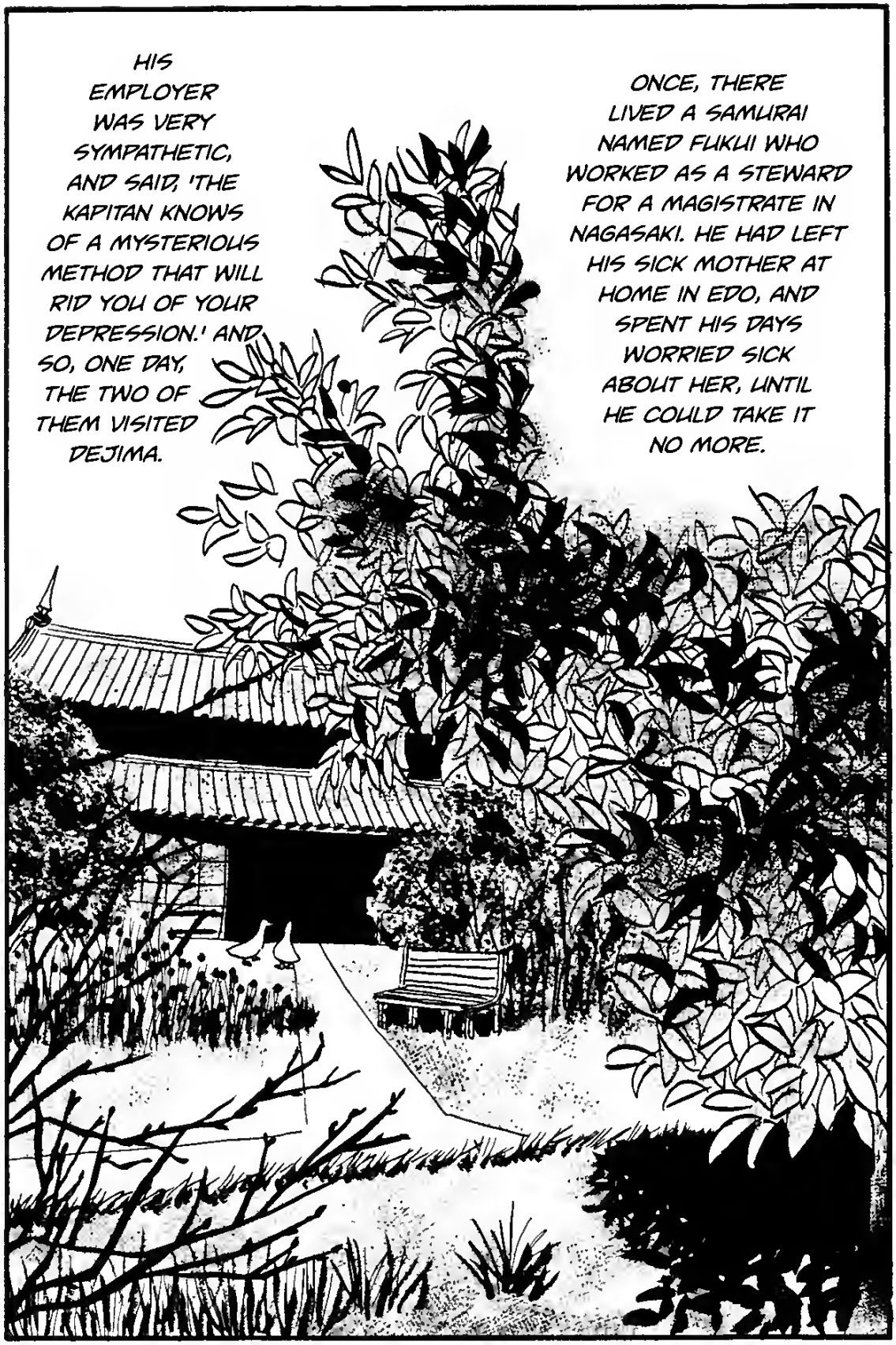
Tale 12

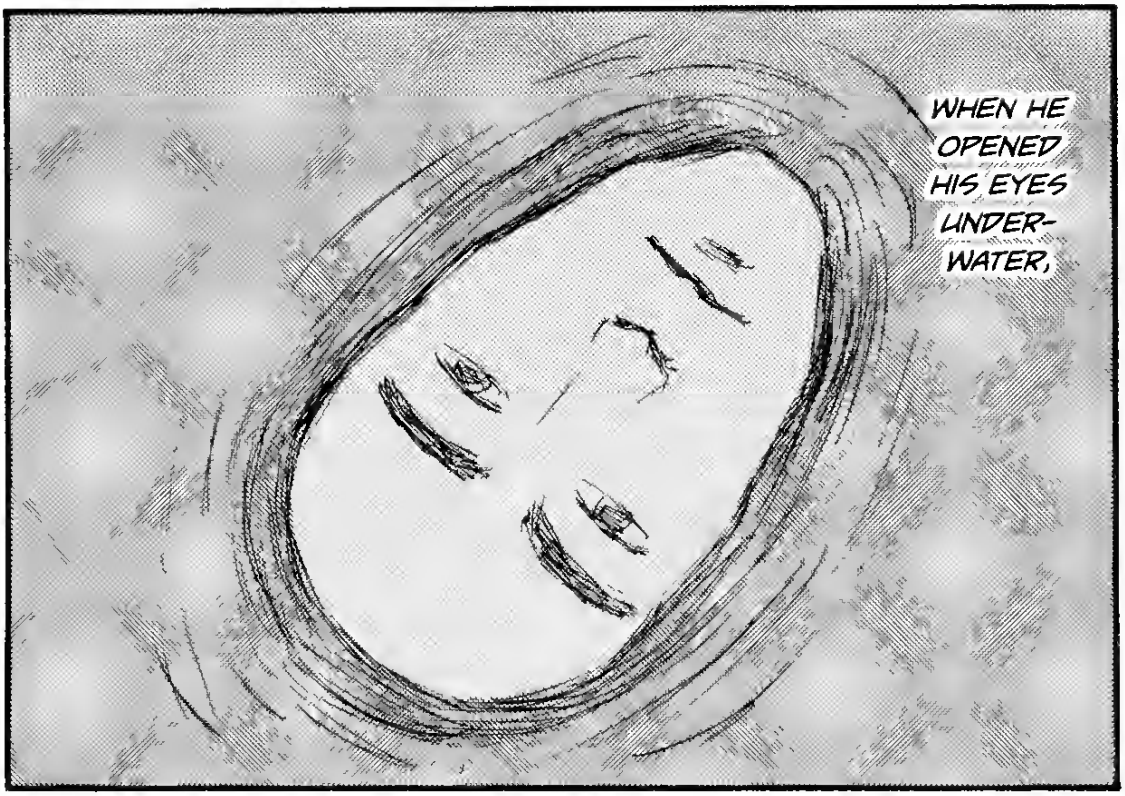
The Mysterious Method of Kapitan

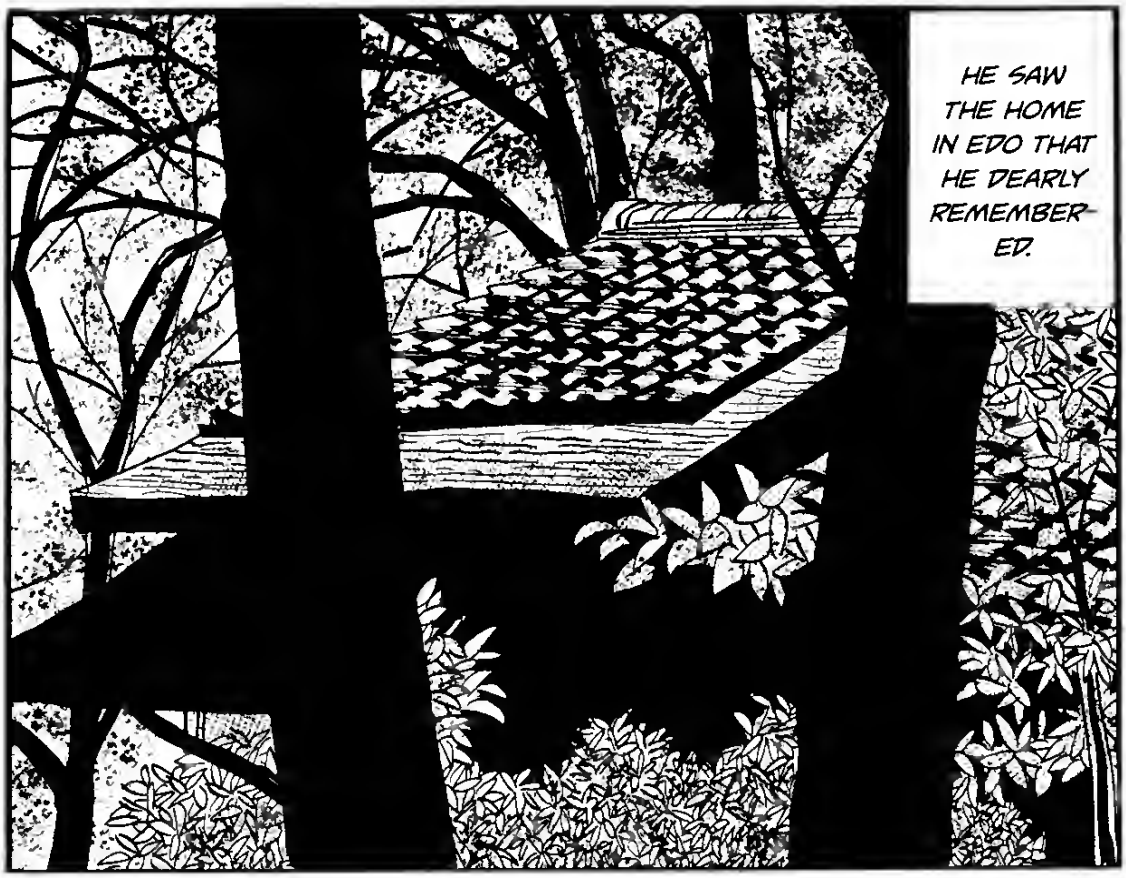



ONCE, THERE LIVED A SAMURAI NAMED FUKUI WHO WORKED AS A STEWARD FOR A MAGISTRATE IN NAGASAKI. HE HAD LEFT HIS SICK MOTHER AT HOME IN EDO, AND SPENT HIS DAYS WORRIED SICK ABOUT HER, UNTIL HE COULD TAKE IT NO MORE.
HIS EMPLOYER WAS VERY SYMPATHETIC, AND SAID, 'THE KAPITAN KNOWS OF A MYSTERIOUS METHOD THAT WILL RID YOU OF YOUR DEPRESSION.' AND SO, ONE DAY, THE TWO OF THEM VISITED DEJIMA.

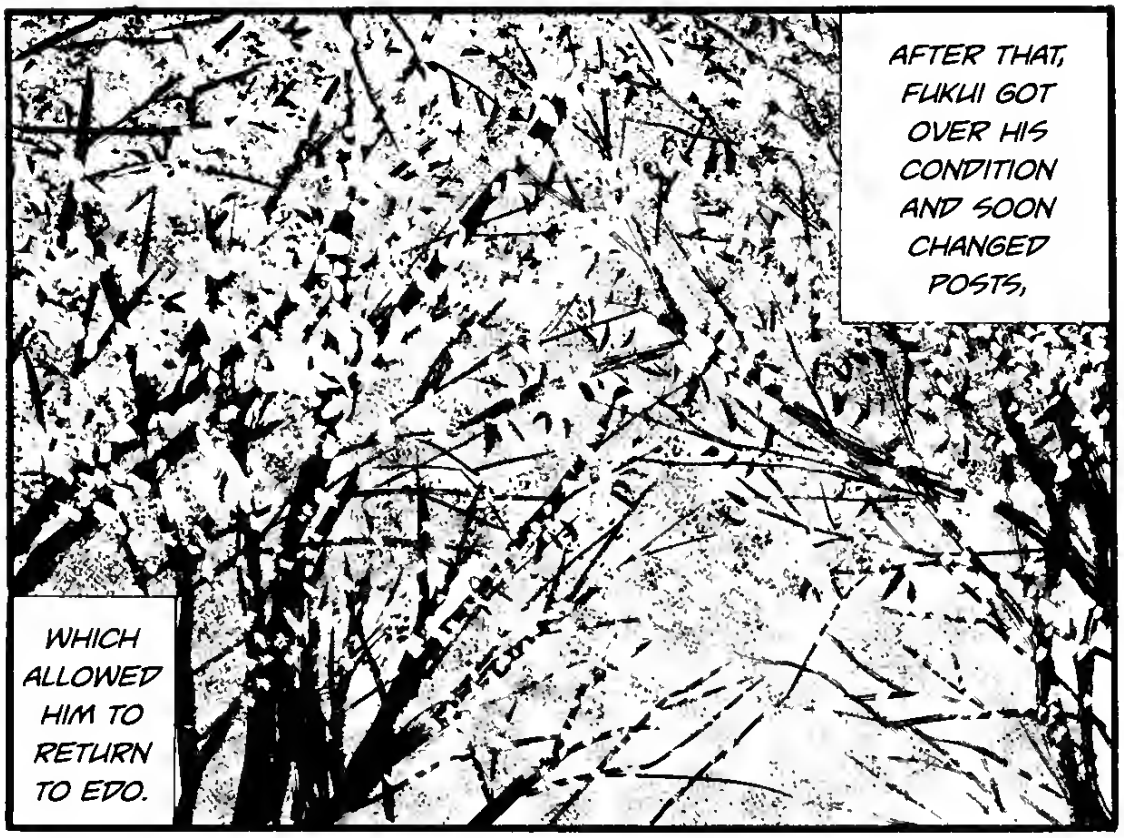
FIRST,
A BOWL FILLED
WITH WATER WAS
PREPARED.

SUBMERGE YOUR FACE
IN THE WATER AND LOOK
CLEARLY AT WHAT'S INSIDE.


WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES UNDER-WATER,


HE SAW THE HOME IN EDO THAT HE DEARLY REMEMBER-ED.

WHEN THEIR EYES MET, HE RAN OUT OF BREATH,
HIS MOTHER WAS SAFE, AND KNITTING SOMETHING.
AND RAISED HIS HEAD.
HAA


AFTER THAT, FUKUI GOT OVER HIS CONDITION AND SOON CHANGED POSTS,
WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO RETURN TO EDO.

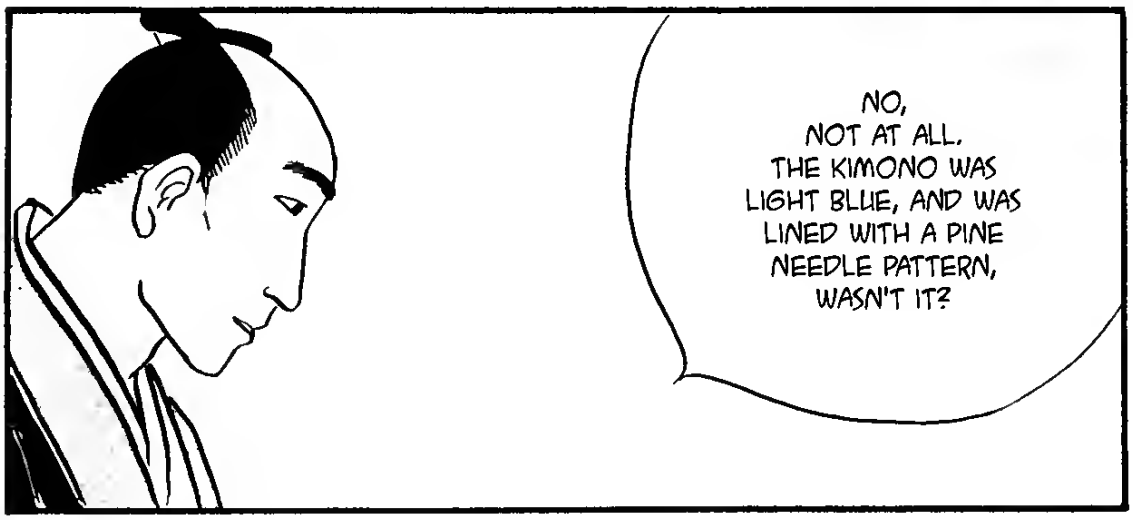
YOU LOOK VERY HEALTHY AS WELL, SO I'M RELIEVED.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT.

YOU'LL PROBABLY LAUGH AND CALL ME AN SENILE OLD FOOL IF I SAY THIS,
BUT WHILE YOU WERE GONE, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED TO ME.

ONE DAY WHEN I WAS KNITTING A KIMONO FOR YOU,
I SAW YOU APPEAR AT THE TOP OF A TREE IN THE GARDEN.

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I WAS JUST SEEING THINGS.
WHEN OUR EYES MET, YOUR FACE LOOKED SO CLEAR,

SEE? I KNEW YOU'D LAUGH AT ME.


NO, NOT AT ALL. THE KIMONO WAS LIGHT BLUE, AND WAS LINED WITH A PINE NEEDLE PATTERN, WASN'T IT?